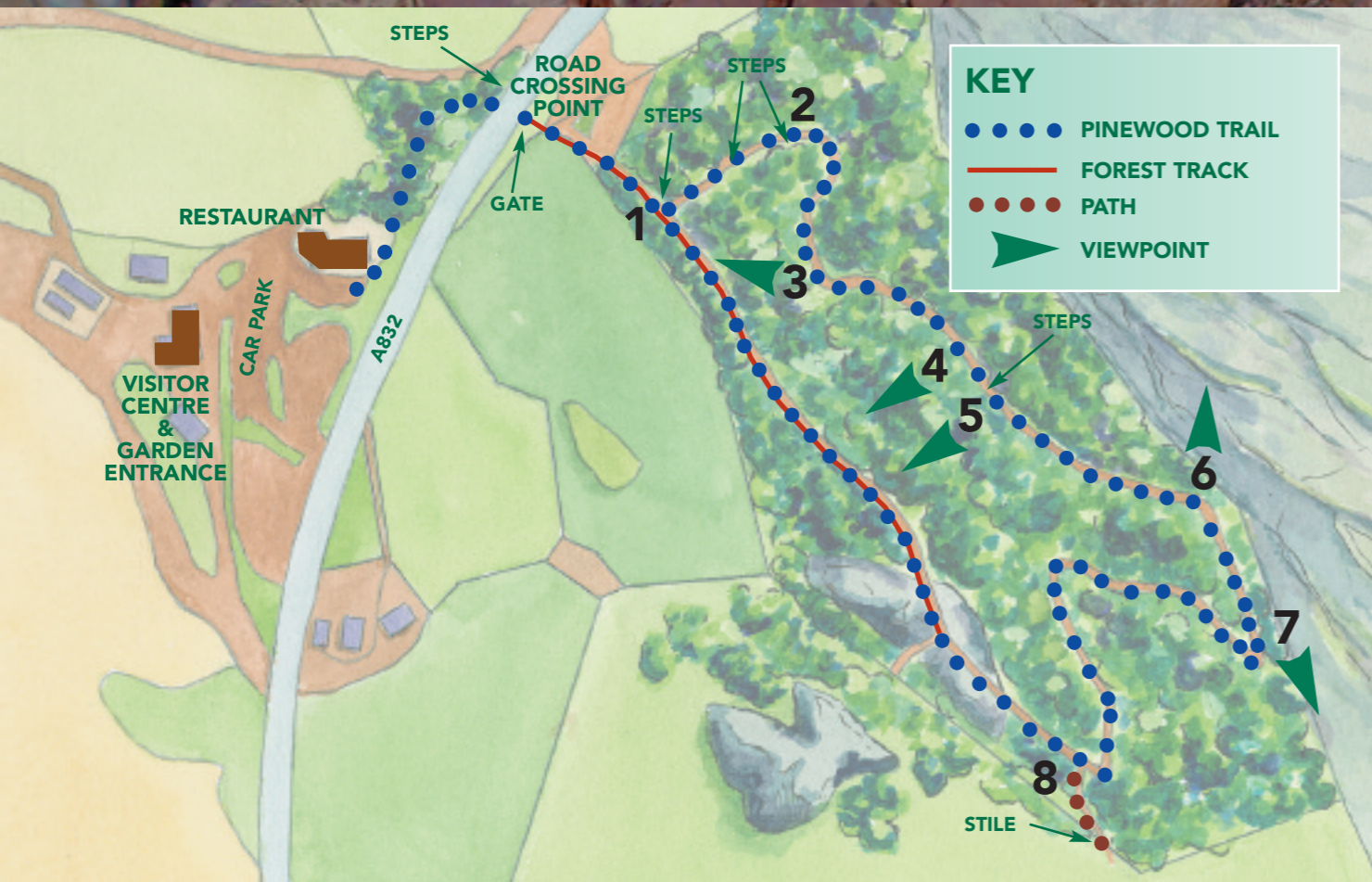




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# INVEREWE PINWOOD TRAIL



with a near-weightless seed that can travel far on the wind. It is the first tree to colonise this open ground and is already forming new woodland. The attractive trees with orange bark are Scots pines that may eventually become very old 'granny pines'.

They will provide food for seed-eating birds such as Scottish Crossbills and some of the seed may eventually become the future generation of pines.

Follow the trail back to the forest gate, and restaurant. We hope you have enjoyed the Pinewood Trail. The route to the left reaches a stile, where you may cross to the open moor, but make sure you are equipped for wild terrain.

*The National Trust for Scotland aims to protect and promote Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy.*



Phone the Inverewe Ranger Service on 01445 781431 for details of the guided walks programme



Developed with the assistance of the Highland Access Project

This information is also available in large print version.  
[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

plantations do not favour wildlife, and will not be replaced. Future management on the wider Inverewe estate will encourage the natural growth of native trees where they are able to grow. The aim is to achieve a diverse landscape that includes a harmonious mixture of native woodland and moorland.

## 7 Hill of the shieling

The beautiful mountain before you is Beinn Airigh Charr (meaning 'hill of the shieling').

A shieling is where people in the past lived during the summer while their animals grazed the mountain pasture. Grazing has increased with the introduction of sheep and rising numbers of deer. This has prevented trees from growing, resulting in the treeless landscape before you.

## 8 Food for thought

This area was cleared of non-native lodgepole pine in 1998, allowing plenty of light for new trees to grow. The birch is a pioneering tree

Enjoy this woodland trail that winds through pinewoods with superb views of the Wester Ross landscape





**The landscape around Inverewe has changed many times over thousands of years. Trees have come and gone depending on the climate, soils, and the influence of humans and animals. Walk the Pinewood Trail and with this leaflet find out what has happened to the landscape and what may happen next ...**

The trail starts by the restaurant and crosses the main road (please take care when crossing!). Follow the indicator posts, passing through the forest gate, to reach stop **1**. The map and information in this leaflet corresponds with the **8** stops numbered on wooden posts.

Returning to the restaurant, the trail should take around *45 minutes* and is suitable as a dog walk. There are some inclines and the terrain is rough in places.

The trail is unsuitable for wheelchairs due to steps.

## 1 A sapling's story

Admire the view overlooking Poolewe village. There are many more views to enjoy along this trail. The majestic Corsican pines, just in front of you, were planted 100 years ago. When these trees were tiny saplings, many visitors to Poolewe arrived by steam ship. The disembarking passengers would have seen crops growing in the fields and stacks of peat by each croft house, but not the wooded landscape you see today.

**(Enter the plantation by the stone steps)**

## 2 Shades of green

Notice the different shades of conifers in the plantations. Scots pine is the only native conifer used for timber. Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine are newcomers to the area introduced from North America. They can grow in our poor soils, but may be blown down by the wind before they mature.

## 3 Clinging on

The moorland landscape you see on the other side of the loch is typical of large areas of Wester Ross. More woodland existed thousands of years ago. Climate and clearance by people has reduced the natural woodland but trees do still survive. Trees are more likely to grow in suitable soil with shelter from the wind and protection from grazing animals.

## 4 Ancient woods

The mountains in the distance are the spectacular Torridon Hills. An ancient Scots pine wood still grows there, having survived at Beinn Eighe (pronounced *Byn ay*) for thousands of years. The 'Great Wood of Caledon' covered vast areas of Scotland thousands of years ago when the climate was more favourable. Here, at Inverewe, pine stumps can be found buried under layers of peat, providing evidence that woodland was once here too.

## 5 Clues to the past

The rock you are standing on is Torridon sandstone, forming the underlying geology for much of the surrounding area. The stunted trees you can see are struggling to grow in the rocky terrain. Typical moorland plants, such as heather and crowberry, growing just beside you, provide clues to how the landscape looked before this forest was planted.

## 6 Future harmony

The blocks of forest that blanket the moor are typical of many post-World War II forestry plantations that were planted to provide timber. These dense dark conifer

Wildlife images supplied by Laurie Campbell



Crossbill



Pine Marten

